

THE 8TH BIG ISSUE OF-

BEST OF THE WEST

NO. 8



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



**The SECRET of
TREASURE CAVE-**
How Gray Shadow Tracked
Down the Mystery of
Spike's Sudden Wealth

GIVEN!

WE GIVE YOU CASH OR PREMIUMS!

**BOYS! GIRLS!
LADIES!
MEN!**



Archery Sets, Pocket Watches, Footballs, Carving Sets (sent postage paid). Write or mail coupon to start.

ACT NOW!

**WE
TRUST
YOU!**

22 Cal. Rifles, 1000 Shot Daisy Air Rifles (sent postage paid). Boys-girls Bicycles (Express charges collected), Write or mail coupon to start.

**OUR
SBW
YEAR**

Corn Poppers, Speedball, Cartoon Sets, Aluminum Ware, Blankets (sent postage paid). Mail coupon for salve and pictures to start.

**LET'S
GO!**

**WE
TRUST
YOU**

MAIL

Wilson Chem. Co. Dept. ME 105 Tyrone, Pa. Date.....
Gentlemen: Please send me on trial 14 colorful art pictures with 14 boxes of White CLOVERINE Brand SALVE to sell at 25c a box (with picture). I will remit amount asked within 30 days, select a Premium or keep Cash Commission as explained under Premium wanted in catalog sent with order, postage paid to start.

NAME _____ AGE _____

ST. _____ R. D. _____ BOX _____

TOWN _____ ZONE NO. _____ STATE _____

PRINT LAST NAME HERE

Paste coupon on postal card or mail in envelope today

I'LL BUY 2 BOXES OF WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE, SPIKE! IT'S WONDERFUL... AND THESE ART PICTURES YOU GIVE ARE LOVELY!

THANKS, MRS. JONES! THAT MAKES 10 BOXES I'VE SOLD THIS MORNING.

IT'S EASY!

UGH! PALE SQUAW GIVE-UM WAMPUM!

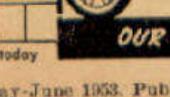
I CONFESS, KIDS - I GOT ALL THESE PREMIUMS JUST FOR SELLING WHITE CLOVERINE BRAND SALVE... NEXT WEEK I'M SENDING IN GETTING A CAMERA. IT'S THAT COUPON A CINCH!



**MAIL COUPON!
YOU GET
BIG
CATALOG**

**OUR 58th
YEAR**

**ACT
NOW!**

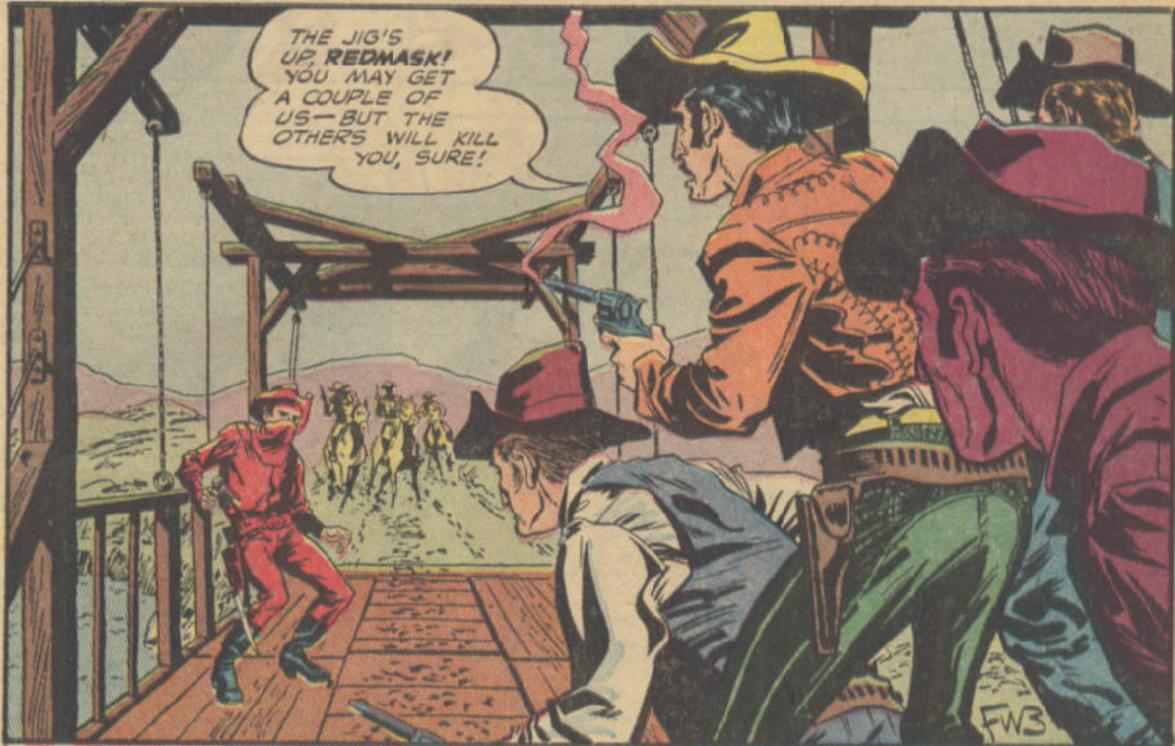


OUR 58th YEAR - WE ARE RELIABLE!

TIM HOLT

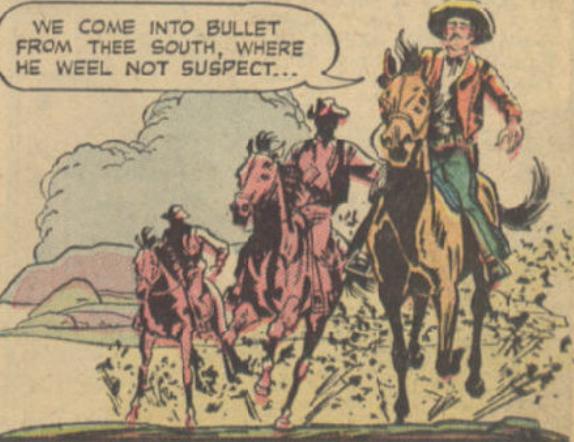
THEY COME FROM THE MILK RIVER COUNTRY OF MONTANA, FROM THE GOLD TOWNS OF NEVADA, FROM THE DESERTS OF ARIZONA AND NEW MEXICO! OUTLAWS ALL, AND KILLERS—THIRSTING FOR ONE MAN'S DEATH! THAT MAN IS REDMASK, AND HE FINDS THAT HE MUST RIDE ALONE TO MEET THESE MEN, AND ACT AS—

**"BAIT FOR
BANDIT BULLETS!"**



BLACKJACK TRAVIS RIDES LIKE THE WIND,
STOPPING NEITHER TO EAT OR TO DRINK...

ACROSS THE HOT DESERT SANDS COMES EL SOMBRERO.



THE SUNDANCE KID GALLOPS PAST RED BUTTES...



IN THE DUSTY STREETS OF BULLET WORD RUNS, LIKE THE WIND, OF THE COMING OF THE BAD-MEN...

REDMASK, GET MOVING! EL SOMBRERO AND BLACKJACK TRAVIS AND THE SUNDANCE KID ARE OUT FOR YOUR HIDE! THEY'RE COMING FROM SOUTH AND NORTH AND WEST!



I CAN'T EXPECT SHERIFF GAGE TO STOP HIS CRIME-FIGHTING TO HELP ME. I'LL ROUND UP SOME BOYS AT THE SALOONS...

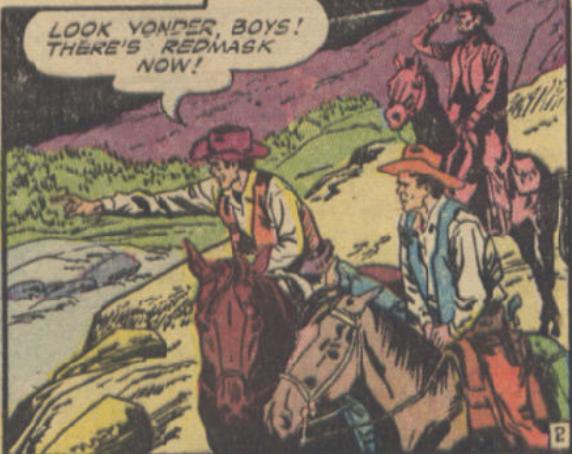


BUT EVERYWHERE REDMASK GOES, THE ANSWER IS THE SAME...

SORRY, REDMASK! I'M GOING FISHING. I ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME, REDMASK!

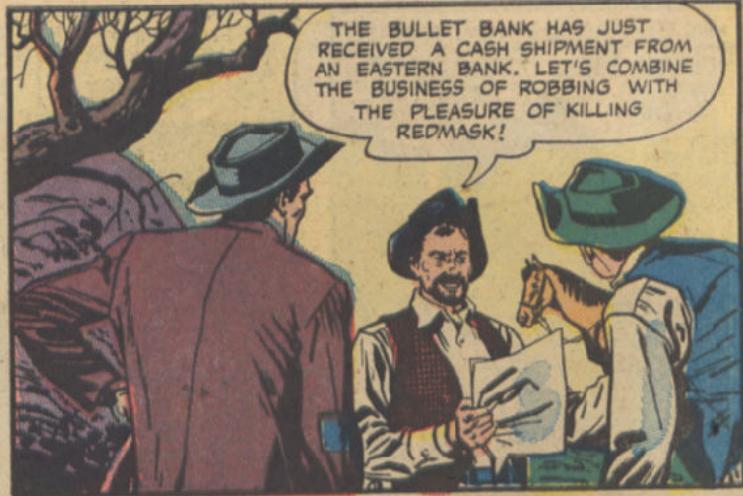
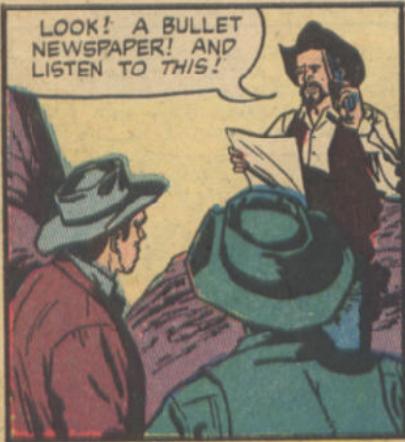


SOME HOURS LATER, IN THE FOOTHILLS AROUND CACTUS PASS...





NEXT MORNING, BLACKJACK TRAVIS READS ONE OF THOSE PAPERS...



IN BULLET, AS THE SUN MOUNTS IN THE SKY—



SUDDENLY, THICK PUFFS OF YELLOW SMOKE POUR FROM THE BANK'S FIREPLACE...



OUTSIDE THE BULLET BANK...



THOSE SULPHUR PELLETS I DROPPED DOWN THE CHIMNEY WILL BE CHOKING AND BLINDING THEM ABOUT NOW. I'LL GIVE THEM TEN MINUTES MORE, TO MAKE SURE...!



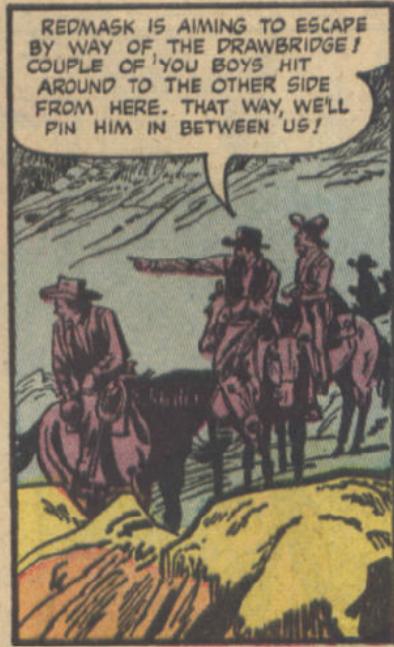
NOW, GENTLEMEN, OFF TO BULLET'S JAIL, AND JOIN THE SUNDANCE KID!



AS REDMASK PARADES HIS PRISONERS ALONG MAIN STREET—



OUTSIDE TOWN —



AND SO, AS REDMASK POUNDS ONTO THE DRAWBRIDGE —

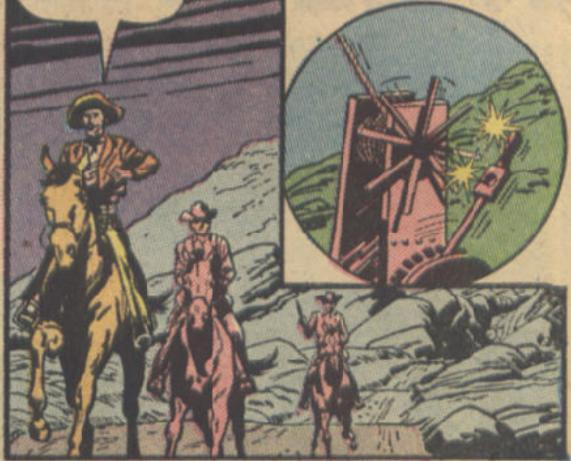


THEN REDMASK'S HAND DROPS AND LIFTS. HIS COLT SIXGUN ROARS!



HAI! HAI! HAI!
HE EES SO SCARED,
HE MISSES US
BY TWENTY FOOTS!
HAI! HAI!

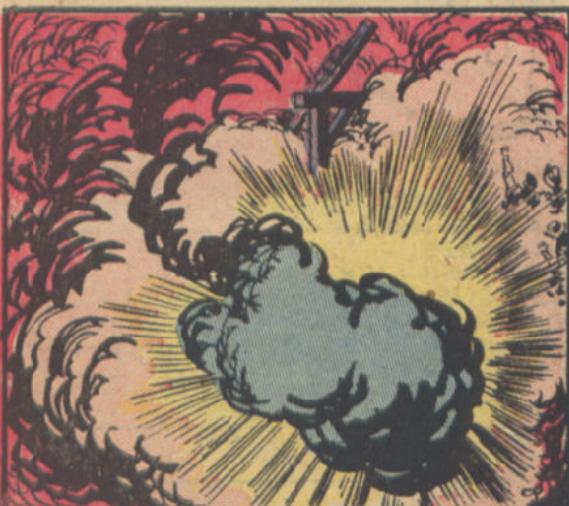
BUT REDMASK'S BULLET STRIKES HOME—ON THE CONTROL LEVER THAT OPERATES THE DRAW-BRIDGE!



WITH A SQUEAL OF GRATING CHAINS, THE BRIDGE LIFTS UPWARD—



ONE BULLET PLOWING REDHOT INTO ALL THAT POWDER WILL BLOW IT SKYHIGH!



WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS AWAY...

ON YOUR FEET, YOU MURDERING RATS! YOU'RE GOING BACK TO JAIL, AND THIS TIME YOU'RE GOING TO STAY THERE!



THE END

FREE..10 HITLER STAMPS



10 Scarce Stamps—All Different—Sent Free

TO SECURE NAMES FOR OUR MAILING LIST

MAIL coupon at once. We'll send you this fascinating set of 10 Hitler stamps. Different sizes, colors, values. **NO COST TO YOU.**

These valuable stamps were issued by the short-lived nation of Bohemia-Moravia. They are much sought after. Now they are becoming SCARCE. And since the nation is no longer in existence—no new issues can be minted. Our supply is limited. So, don't ask for more than one set.

FREE 32-Page Book

In addition to the FREE Hitler Stamps, we'll also include other interesting offers for your inspection—PLUS a FREE copy of our helpful, informative book, "How To Collect Postage Stamps." It contains fascinating and true stories such as the one about the 1¢ stamp (which a schoolboy gladly sold for \$1.50) and which was later bought for **FORTY THOUSAND DOLLARS.**

This Free Book also contains expert advice on collecting; shows how to get started; where and how to find rare stamps; how to tell their real value; how to mount them, trade them; how to start a stamp club; exciting stamp games, etc. It has pictures galore! Full pages of pictures showing odd stamps depicting native men and women from faraway lands; ferocious beasts, etc.

MAIL COUPON NOW

Be the first in your neighborhood to have this valuable set of Hitler Stamps. Your friends will envy you for it and want to buy the set from you. It will become one of the most prized sets of any stamp collection. But you must hurry if you want to get the 10 Hitler Stamps FREE. This special offer may have to be withdrawn soon. If coupon has already been used, write direct to: Littleton Stamp Co., Dept. 4 MEC, Littleton, New Hampshire. (Enclose 10¢ to help cover postage and handling).



**Supply Limited
Mail Coupon At Once!**



LITTLETON STAMP CO.,
DEPT. 4 MEC LITTLETON, N. H.

Send—at NO COST TO ME—the valuable set of 10 Hitler stamps and the informative booklet, "How To Collect Postage Stamps." I enclose 10¢ to help cover postage and handling.

Name _____

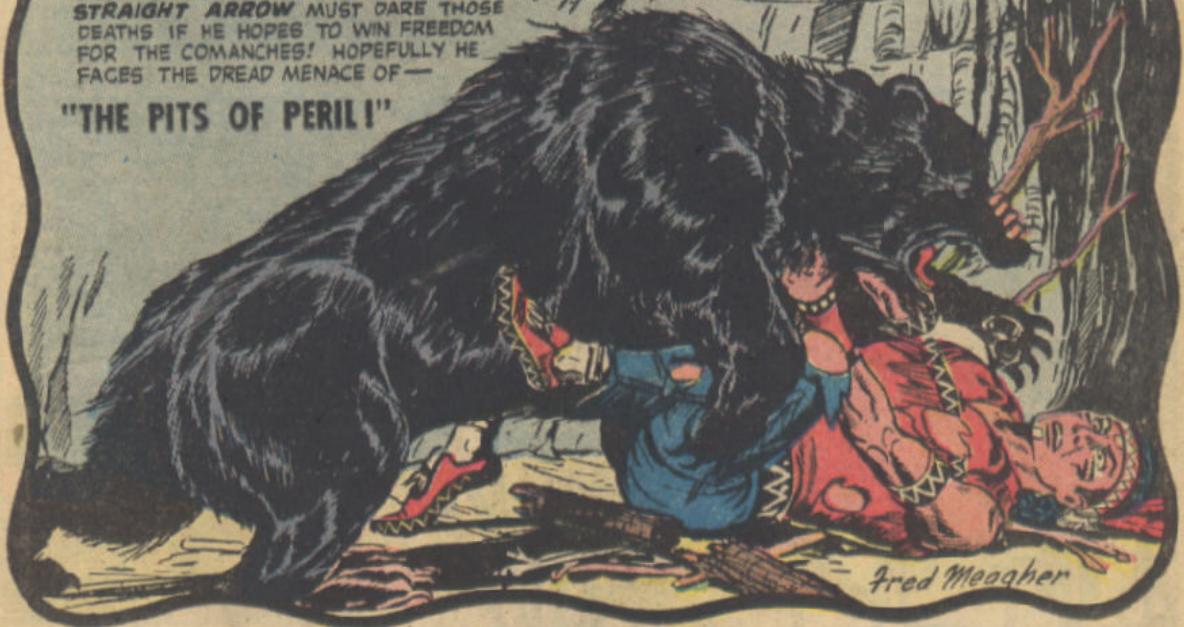
Address _____

City _____ State _____

STRAIGHT ARROW

THERE WERE ONLY THREE HOLES IN THE GROUND, YET EACH WAS FILLED WITH A DEATH WORSE THAN THE ONE NEXT TO IT! ALONE AGAINST THE EVIL FEATHER HAT AND HIS COMANCHE PEOPLE, STRAIGHT ARROW MUST DARE THOSE DEATHS IF HE HOPES TO WIN FREEDOM FOR THE COMANCHES! HOPEFULLY HE FACES THE DREAD MENACE OF —

"THE PITS OF PERIL!"



A CLOUD OF GLOOM HAS COME UPON THE COMANCHE NATION. AN EVIL CHIEFTAIN HAS MADE HIMSELF RULER —

ONLY IN MY DREAD PITS
WILL YOU LEARN TO RULE
COMANCHERIA!



THERE ARE SOME TO WHOM FEATHER HAT BRINGS DEATH IN THE NIGHT, FOR THEIR POWER IS GREAT AMONG THE PEOPLE ...

YOU ARE THE
BIG CHIEF! WITH
YOU GONE, I WILL
STAND ALONE
AMONG THE CHIEFS!



ONLY ONE WARRIOR—YOUNG **STRONG BOW**—DARES TO STAND AGAINST HIM...

WERE STRAIGHT ARROW HERE, YOU WOULD NOT TAKE CONTROL OF THE TRIBE!

BAH! NO MAN IS AS GREAT AS FEATHER HAT! THROW HIM IN HIS TEPEE!

TOMORROW, HE DIES AT DAWN, BY THE PIT DEATH?



MY ONLY WISH IS THAT STRAIGHT ARROW WERE HERE TOO—TO FACE THE PITS OF PERIL WITH YOU!

AS THE MOON RISES ABOVE THE PLAINS, TWO TERRIFIED GIRLS RACE FROM THE COMANCHE VILLAGE...

WE MUST FIND HELP SOMEWHERE!

IF WE DON'T, OUR BROTHER, STRONGBOW DIES AT DAWN!



OH, YES!
WE THOUGHT
YOU WERE
FEATHER
HAT!

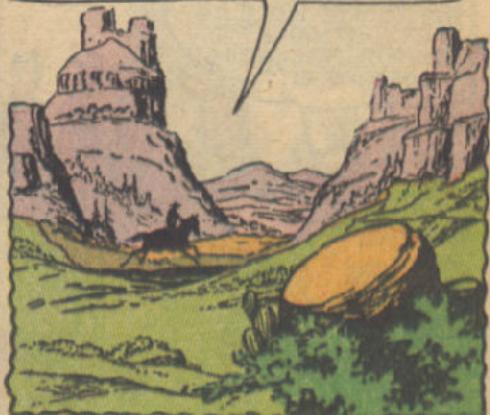
AS THE COMANCHE GIRLS TELL THEIR STORY, A GRIM SCOWL GROWS ON STEVE ADAMS' FOREHEAD...

SO, FEATHER HAT SLAYS GOOD COMANCHEES, DOES HE? TO FORCE THE OTHERS TO RIDE AGAINST THE SETTLERS AND RANCHERS!



TAKE THE GIRLS TO MESQUITE
MOLLY, PACKY! I-ER-HAVE
SOME BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!

MY RANCH KEEPS ME BUSY ROUNDING
UP CATTLE AND TRAIL DRIVING THEM TO
MARKET! I'VE BEEN GONE A LONG TIME
FROM THE COMANCHE COUNCIL FIRES...



A SHORT DISTANCE
FROM THE BROKEN
BOW RANCH LIES
SUNDOWN VALLEY,
AND IN IT THERE IS
A VAST CAVE. ITS
WALLS GLITTER
WITH GOLDEN
CRYSTALS, AND ON
THEM HANGS A
GOLDEN BOW, COM-
ANCHE GARB AND
WAR PAINT!



A MIGHTY GOLDEN PALOMINO
STANDS WITHIN THE CAVE! A
MOMENT AFTER STEVE ADAMS
DOFFS THE CLOTHES OF STEVE
ADAMS—HE APPEARS AS THE
COMANCHE CHIEFTAIN,
STRAIGHT ARROW!



AN HOUR BEFORE DAWN, IN A
COMANCHE TEPEE —

SO! FEATHER HAT FEARS TO
FLING ME TO HIS PITS. HE
COMES TO SLAY ME IN
THE NIGHT!



IT IS NOT FEATHER HAT,
BUT STRAIGHT ARROW!
I COME TO TAKE YOUR
PLACE! GIVE ME
YOUR GARMENTS!

TO TAKE MY PLACE!
BUT YOU WILL HAVE
TO FACE THE PIT
DEATHS, IF YOU DO
THAT? WHY NOT FLEE
WITH ME?



BECAUSE FEATHER HAT
MUST BE PUNISHED,
RIDE TO FORT COBS
ON FURY! BRING THE
CAVALRY. I STAY HERE
TO DARE THE PITS IN
ORDER TO KEEP
FEATHER HAT IN
CAMP WHILE
HE WAITS FOR
ME — AS YOU!
— TO DIE! IF
I CAN HOLD
HIM LONG
ENOUGH IT WILL
GIVE YOU A
CHANCE TO
BRING THE
BLUE COATS!

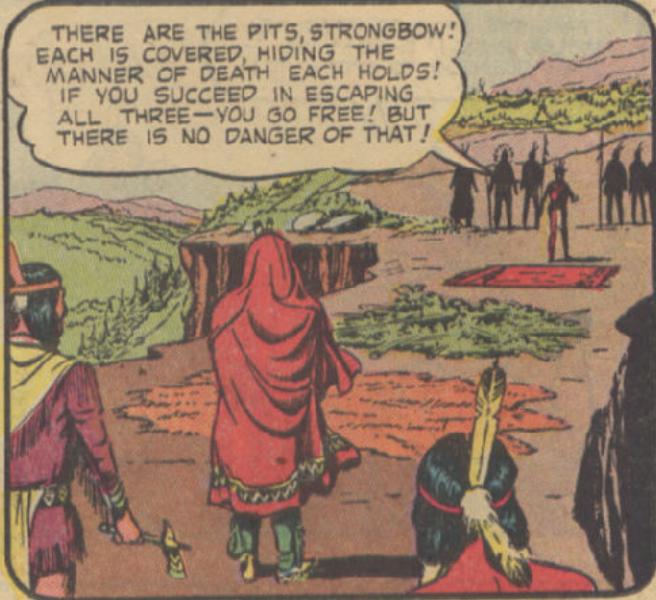


AT DAWN, IN THE GARMENTS AND ROBE OF YOUNG STRONGBOW, STRAIGHT ARROW IS LEAD FROM HIS TEPEE...

STRONGBOW IS AFRAID! SEE HOW HE HIDES HIS FACE, THAT NONE MAY SEE HOW PALE WITH FRIGHT HE IS!



THERE ARE THE PITS, STRONGBOW! EACH IS COVERED, HIDING THE MANNER OF DEATH EACH HOLDS! IF YOU SUCCEED IN ESCAPING ALL THREE—YOU GO FREE! BUT THERE IS NO DANGER OF THAT!



WITH CONFIDENT SMIRKS ON THEIR FACES, FEATHER HAT AND HIS RENEGADE CREW TAKE THEIR PLACES...



I DON'T KNOW WHAT AWAITS ME, BUT I FEAR IT NOT!



THERE IS A ROAR THAT SHAKES THE GROUND! A GREEN-EYED DEMON HURLES FORWARD!

THE LARGEST PANTHER I EVER SAW! ALMOST AS BIG AS A TIGER!



GLEAMING FANGS GLISTEN IN THE OPEN MOUTH! A HOT FETID BREATH BURNS THE COMANCHE CHIEFTAIN'S FACE!

ONE BITE OF THOSE JAWS AND HE COULD TAKE MY HEAD OFF...!



TWISTING FREE, STRAIGHT ARROW
SNATCHES UP THE HIDE THAT COVERED
THE PIT'S MOUTH. TWISTING IT AROUND
A FOREARM, HE MEETS THE PANTHER
WITH COLD STEEL!

HIS FANGS CATCH IN THE
HIDE—WHILE THEY HOLD
HIM, MY KNIFE SINKS
INTO HIS HEART!



THE SECOND PIT IS COVERED
WITH LOGS AND BRUSHWOOD—



INSIDE IT STANDS A GAUNT, STARVED GRIZZLY BEAR TOWERING HIGH ABOVE THE COMANCHE!

WHERE DID
FEATHER HAT
FIND
SUCH
ANIMALS?



THE GRIZZLY LUNGES FORWARD—!

STRONGBOW IS TOO YOUNG
A WARRIOR TO HAVE
WITHSTOOD THESE TESTS!
ONLY I CAN HOPE TO KEEP
FEATHER HAT HERE WAITING
FOR MY DEATH—AND HOW
LONG CAN EVEN I KEEP
HIM HERE IS THE BIG
QUESTION...!



BACK AND FORTH MAN AND
BEAST REEL AND SWAY!
POWERFUL HAIRY ARMS
REACH OUT AND CLOSE!

MY RIBS ARE CRACK-
ING! HE IS TOO
STRONG FOR ME...!



ABOVE HIM GAPES A JAW
THAT DWARFS THE JAW OF
THE PANTHER! FOAM FLECKS
THE SNARLING LIPS!



BUT STRAIGHT ARROW IS ALSO STEVE ADAMS
OF THE COW CAMPS AND THE RODEO ARENA!

THIS LENGTH OF
RAWHIDE WILL
MAKE A GOOD
PIGGIN
STRING!



AS RODEO CONTESTANTS WHIP THEIR
PIGGIN STRINGS AROUND THE ANKLES
OF DOWNED CAVES, SO THE COMANCHE
CHIEF WHIPS THE LEATHER THONG AROUND
THOSE JAWS!

HIS GRIP
LOOSENS AS
HE STRUGGLES
TO FREE
HIS JAWS!

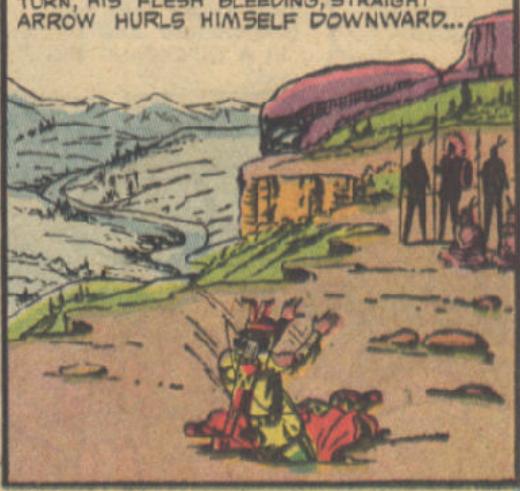


IN A MOMENT, STRAIGHT ARROW IS FREE TO MOVE.
HE HURLS HIMSELF AGAINST THE SHAGGY MONSTER,
AND HIS LONG HUNTING KNIFE DRINKS DEEP!

MY KNIFE HAS
FOUND HIS HEART!



ONE MORE PIT REMAINS! TATTERED AND
TORN, HIS FLESH BLEEDING, STRAIGHT
ARROW HURLS HIMSELF DOWNWARD...



THERE IS NO BEAST IN THIS
HOLE!... ONLY SOFT, WET
SAND—QUICKSAND!

TRICKED! MY LEAP CARRIED
ME DOWN A COUPLE OF FEET
INTO THE QUICKSAND. IT
PULLS ME DOWN—
FASTER AND
FASTER! AND
THE WALLS
ARE SO
SMOOTH, I
CAN'T GET A
GRIP ON
THEM!



HU! STRONGBOW IS GONE!
IT IS STRAIGHT ARROW
DOWN BELOW! ALL THE
BETTER! WE GO NOW TO
RAID THE RANCHES AND
THE SETTLEMENTS. MY
POWER IS SECURE AT
LAST!



SLOWLY, BUT inexorably, THE
QUICKSAND DRAGS THE COM-
ANCHE CHIEF DOWN AND
DOWN. ALL HIS STRENGTH,
ALL HIS SKILL ARE NO
HELP TO HIM!

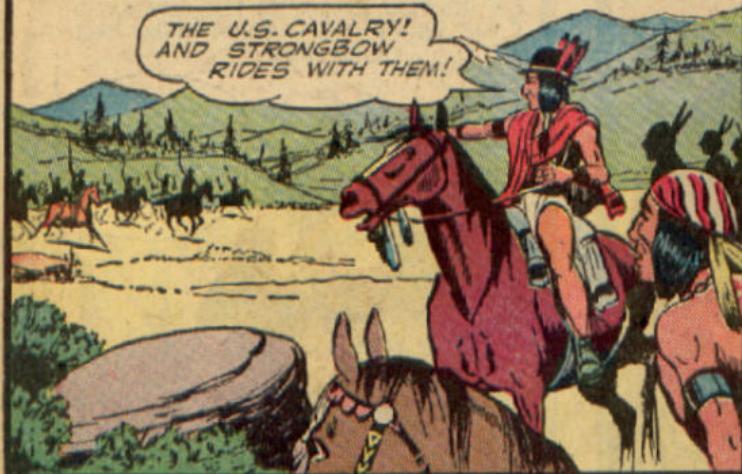
CAN'T DO A
THING... GOING TO
DIE... ALONE...
HELPLESS...



BUT, AS FEATHER HAT AND HIS RENEGADES RIDE OUT OF CAMP, A BUGLE BLARES, AND—!

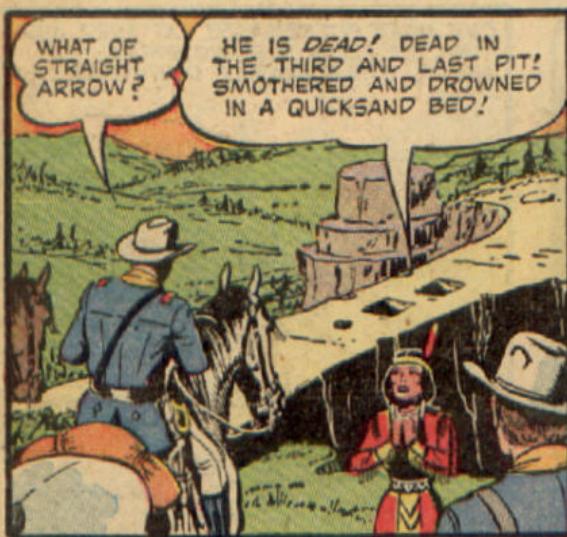
SABRES FLASH IN THE SUN AS THEY DRIVE THE RENEGADES BACK...

THE U.S. CAVALRY! AND STRONGBOW RIDES WITH THEM!



WHAT OF STRAIGHT ARROW?

HE IS DEAD! DEAD IN THE THIRD AND LAST PIT! SMOTHERED AND DROWNED IN A QUICKSAND BED!



BUT THE GREAT COMANCHE WAR CHIEF IS NOT YET DEAD! FOR AS THE CLINGING SANDS RISE UP TO HIS LEGS, HE KNOTS HIS TORN AND RIPPED JACKET TO HIS WARBOW.

I MAY GET OUT OF THIS!



HURLING HIS BOW HIGH, HE HOLDS HIS BREATH AS IT FALLS ACROSS THE MOUTH...

IF ONLY MY BOW DOES NOT BREAK!



HAND OVER HAND HE CLIMBS UPWARD AND REACHES SAFETY.

MADE IT!



FEATHER HAT IS TAKEN TO BE PUNISHED, WITH HIS RENEGADES.

YOU DELAYED HIM LONG ENOUGH FOR STRONGBOW TO WARN ME AND FOR ME TO BRING THE CAVALRY! WE'LL NEVER FORGET THE FIGHT YOU PUT UP IN THOSE PITS!

FRANKLY, COLONEL, NEITHER WILL I!

THE END



HEY KIDS!

Be the first to get this terrific set of Cowboys and Indians!



Fun for all. Contains 40 plastic assorted western pieces. Cowboys, Indians, Horses all in action poses. ONLY \$98.

MAIL COUPON TODAY

LUCKY PRODUCTS Dept. M-17A
Carle Place, N. Y.

Please send me the following. If not delighted my money will be cheerfully refunded.

40 western pieces, I enclose \$98.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ ZONE _____ STATE _____



LIGHTS UP THE INSTANT YOU DROP COIN! Just insert a penny, nickel, dime or quarter into the slot on top. In a split second your spectacular Television Bank lights up—in a big, BIG way!

BIGGEST ATTRACTION EVER!

Everyone will want to see this amazing new Television Bank. Your friends, relatives and neighbors can't resist putting in coins to see this show!

TURN OF KNOB SHOWS NEXT EXCITING PICTURE!

After you've looked your admiring fill at one picture, just turn center knob for next thrill-packed "show". Light goes out automatically as new picture appears. To light new picture, bank another coin. SIX exciting pictures—a fight, a hilarious cartoon, a tense rodeo scene, a swell figure skater, a dramatic dance team and a circus clown with his trick dog!

PUTS YOU "IN THE MONEY" FAST

Your savings pile up PLENTY FAST with this marvelous new Television Bank! Everyone wants to see all six pictures—your savings grow and grow by leaps and bounds! Rich-looking mahogany finish with four simulated dials and speaker grille, 4½" x 4" and ruggedly constructed. Will give you years of fun and big savings!

SEAGEE CO., Dept. M-16
2 Allen Street, New York 2, N. Y.

AMAZING
Get acquainted with
GIANT COLLECTION
of 40 assorted pieces
all yours
for only **98¢**
TREMENDOUS BARGAIN

LOTS OF FUN AND MONEY!
WITH THIS

TELEVISION BANK



LIGHTS UP!
LIKE BIGGEST, COSTLIEST
TELEVISION SETS!

- SHOWS BRILLIANT PICTURES IN FULL COLOR!
 - HITS EVERY TELEVISION HIGH . . . FIGHTS AND ALL!
 - THRILLS YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS POP-EYES!
 - AND . . . MAKES YOUR SAVINGS MOUNT UP FAST!
- ALL-STEEL CONSTRUCTION

ONLY \$1.98

COMPLETE WITH BATTERY AND BULB

GUARANTEED TO DELIGHT YOU!

Bank comes complete with bulb, battery and strong key for opening and emptying your wealth of savings.

BE THE FIRST IN YOUR CROWD TO HAVE THIS WONDERFUL
NEW TELEVISION BANK! SEND NO MONEY! ORDER YOURS TODAY!

SEAGEE CO.,

Dept. M-16

2 Allen Street,

New York 2, N. Y.

Please rush me my TELEVISION BANK. I agree to pay postman \$1.98 plus ten cents postage with understanding that if I am not delighted I may return bank in 5 days for full refund of purchase price.

Name _____

(Please Print Plainly)

Street _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

I enclose \$1.98. You pay postage. Same money-back guarantee.



**YOU CAN BE
THE GHOST RIDER!**

**ONLY
\$1~~00~~**

**AMAZE YOUR FRIENDS
WITH THIS WEIRD SCARF
THAT BECOMES A REAL
GHOST RIDER MASK
THAT GLOWS IN THE DARK!**

A jet-black scarf
...with the name of
THE GHOST RIDER bannered
on it...and a SPOOKY
white mask that becomes a
GHOST RIDER SKULL when
the mask is tied on...!



**COMPIX, Inc. Dept. BW8
10 Murray St. New York 7, N.Y.**

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____

No C.O.Ds Send check or money order

THE GHOST RIDER

"CHARGE!"
CALL THE QUICK-TEMPOED BUGLE NOTES, AS THEY
SPLIT THE MORNING CALM ASUNDER.
"CHARGE!"

AND THE MEN IN GRAY
LEAVE THEIR TRENCHES
AND MOVE GRIMLY
FORWARD INTO A VALLEY
OF DEATH...

A MILE AWAY, A UNION
SOLDIER PULLS A
LANYARD...

WHOOOSH!
THE SHELL ARCS
THROUGH THE AIR—
IT'S NOSE BEGINS TO
TIP — IT SCREAMS DOWNWARD — IT
SCORES A DIRECT HIT!
AND, THUS, AMIDST
AGONIZED SCREAMS,
BEGINS THE STRANGE
TALE OF THE GHOST
RIDER AND —

THE
MAD
COMMANDER!

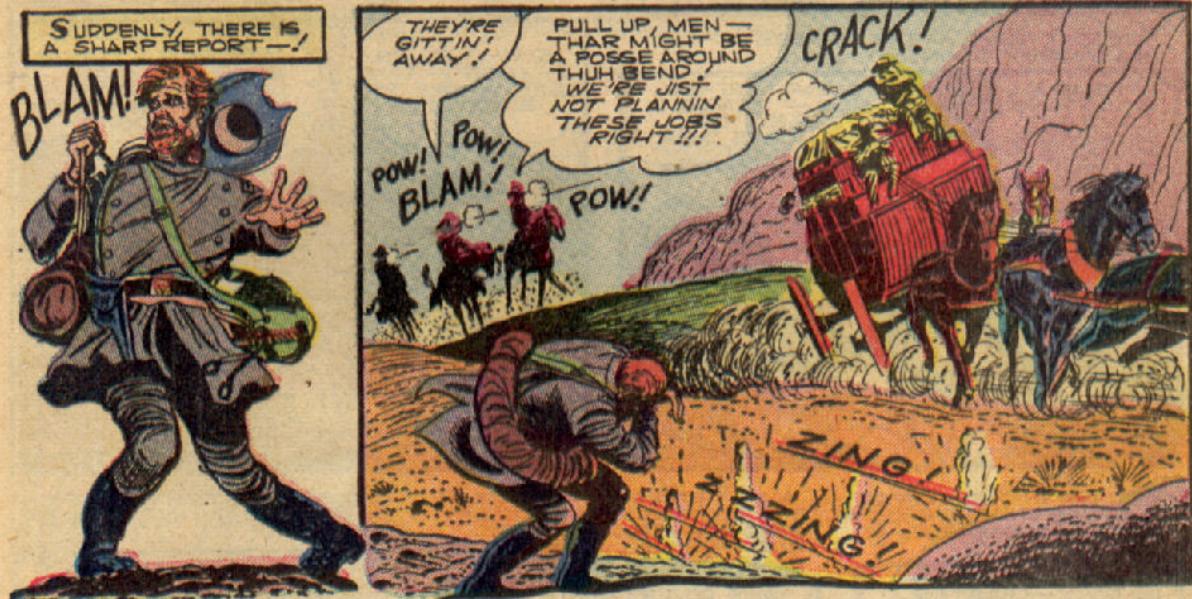
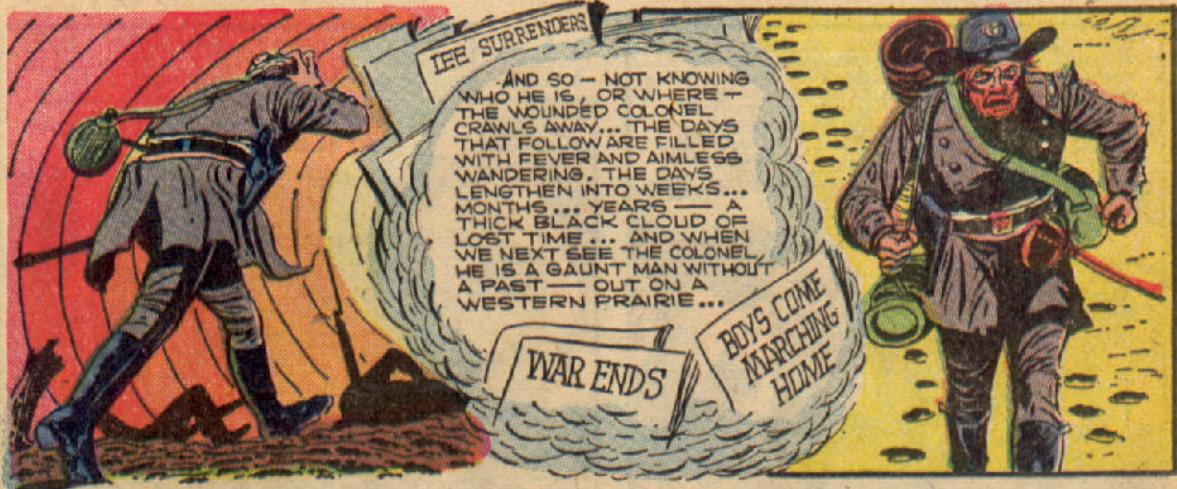
THE WINDS SLOWLY DRAG THE SMOKE AWAY...
THE PROUD COLONEL OPENS HIS EYES, GROANS —

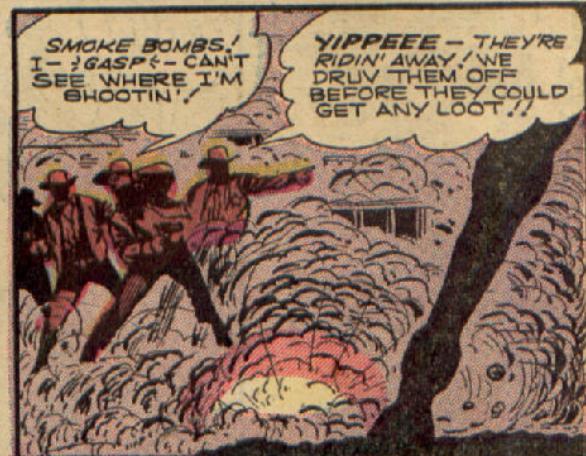
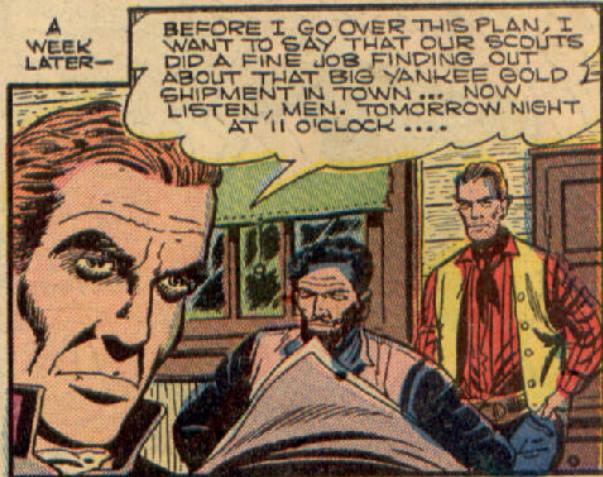
W-WHERE
AM I ... ?
THESE MEN
LYING ABOUT —
WHO ARE
THEY?

NIGHT FALLS, CASTING ITS SHROUD ON
THE DEAD AND THOSE WOUNDED IN BODY
— AND MIND...

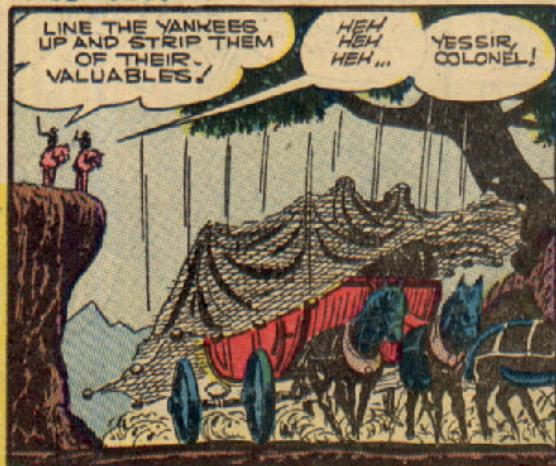
W-WHO AM I ???
LOOKS LIKE I'VE
BEEN IN SOME SORT
OF RUCKUS ... MY
HEAD — IT FEELS
LIKE IT'S SPLIT
IN TWO ...







THE COLONEL IS A TACTICAL GENIUS ! HIS SECOND PLAN IS, IF ANYTHING, EVEN MORE INGENIOUS !

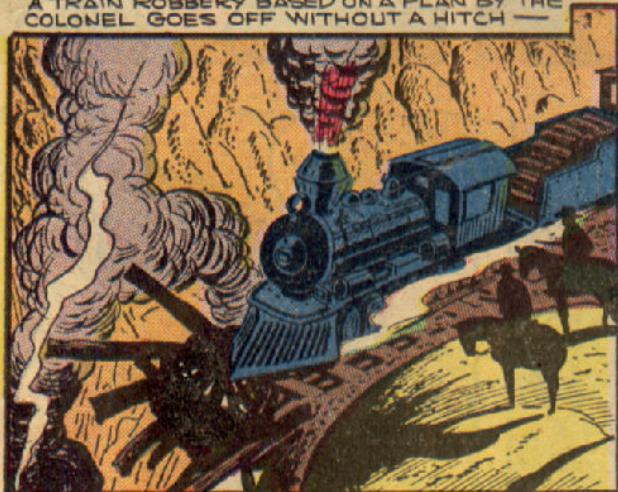


HOODWINKED BY THE OWLHOOTS, HE EVEN APPLIES HIS MILITARY GENIUS TO RUSTLING.

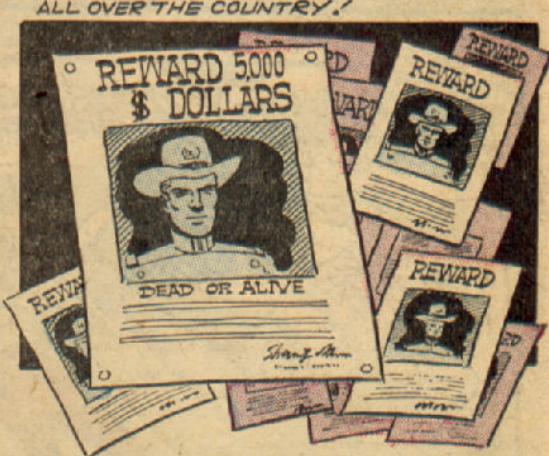
SOAKIN' THUH PRAIRIE GRASS WITH OIL, THEN SETTIN' FIRE TO IT, SHORE WORKED LIKE A CHARM ! IT CUT OFF THUH COWHANDS FROM THEIR STEERS — AN' DROVE THUH HERD RIGHT INTO OUR HANDS !



A TRAIN ROBBERY BASED ON A PLAN BY THE COLONEL GOES OFF WITHOUT A HITCH —



THE GANG GETS BOLDER AND BOLDER... THEIR MAD COMMANDER NEVER RESTS... HE LEADS EVERY RAID ! AND SOON HIS PICTURE APPEARS ON REWARD DODGERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY !



SOME MONTHS LATER, A TREMBLING WOMAN STEPS OFF A WESTERN TRAIN —



I-I ALMOST HOPE I'M WRONG — BUT ALL THOSE CIRCULARS LOOK EXACTLY LIKE MY HUSBAND WHO WAS REPORTED MISSING IN ACTION THREE YEARS AGO...

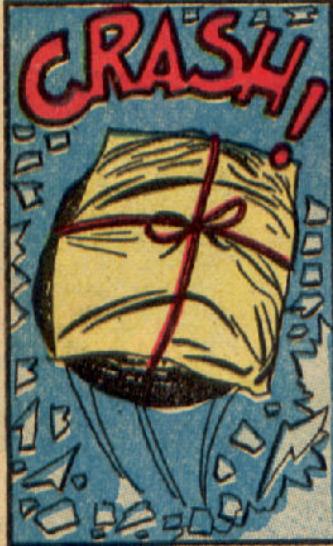


WHUT'RE WE GONNA DO, BOSS?

I'LL MAKE A PLAN — JIST LIKE THUH COLONEL DOES ! AN' EF WE DO THIS RIGHT, THUH MEDDLIN' FEMALE SHOULD BE DEAD BEFORE SUN-UP — AN' THUH COLONEL WILL STAY WITH US FOREVER !



LATER THAT NIGHT, A NOTE IS THROWN THROUGH MRS. ELLSWORTH'S HOTEL WINDOW—



ACHING TO RESOLVE HER HORRIBLE UNCERTAINTY, MRS. ELLSWORTH FOLLOWS THE NOTE'S INSTRUCTIONS. ALONE AND UNARMED, THE BRAVE WOMAN RIDES OUT TO DEAD BRAVE'S GULCH...



I GOT A MESSAGE FROM YORE HUSBAND, MA'AM. IT'S RIGHT HERE IN MY HAND!



HER SCREAMS ARE NOT WASTED ON THE STILL DESERT AIR—FOR DOWN FROM THE NIGHT SWINGS THE GHOST RIDER!



THE GHOST RIDER EFFECTS A QUICK CAPE REVERSAL—FROM WHITE TO BLACK... AND THE OWLHOOOT'S EYES BULGE WITH TERROR, AS HE IS GRIPPED BY SEEMINGLY DISEMBODIED HANDS—



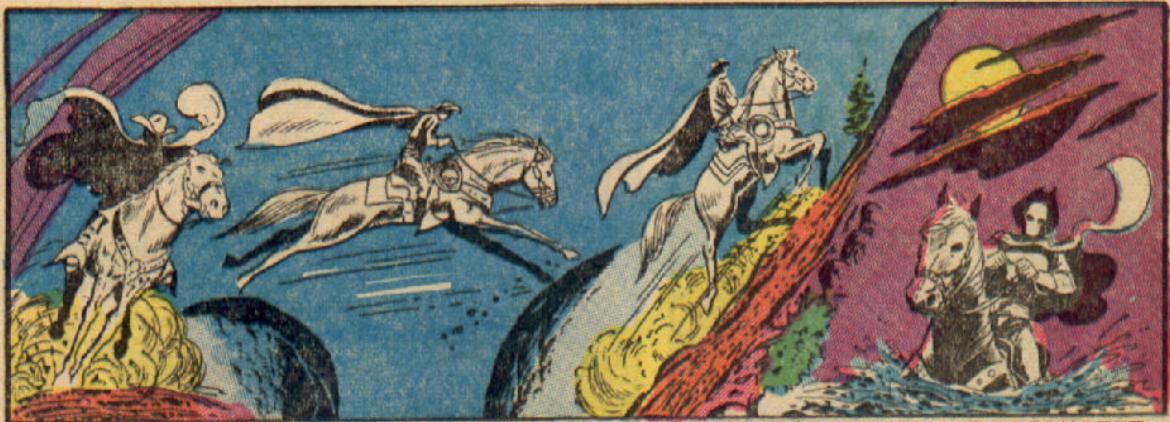
TWO OF THE OWLHOOTS GET AWAY! BUT THE GHOST RIDER NAILS THE THIRD!



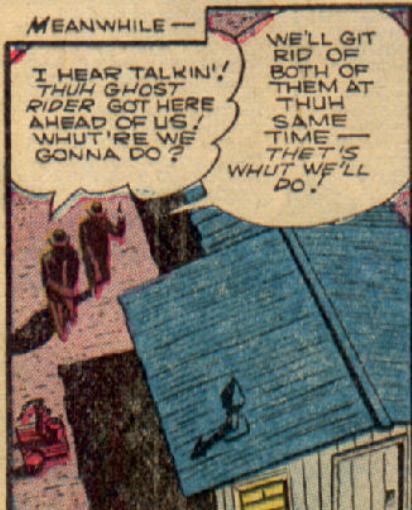
AFTER THE SLOW FALTERING CONFSSION —

THIS IS THE VERY GANG I CAME TO THE TERRITORY TO TRACK DOWN... / BUT NOW THAT THEY KNOW I AM ON THEIR TRAIL, THE COLONEL'S LIFE IS IN DANGER. EVEN AS I STAND HERE, THEY MUST BE ON THEIR WAY TO THEIR MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT TO KILL THE POOR COLONEL, AND THEN DISPERSE... I HAVE TARRIED TOO LONG — IT MAY BE TOO LATE TO SAVE HIM....





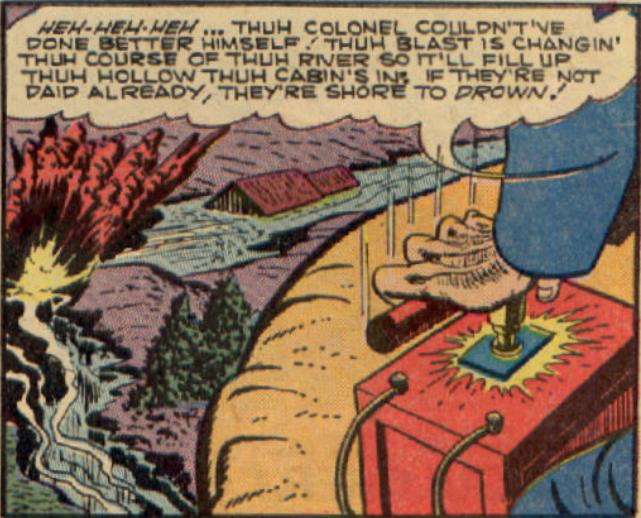
AND SO BEGINS A GRIM RACE BETWEEN THE GHOST RIDER AND DEATH! SPURRED ON BY HIS MASTER, SPECTRE SPEEDS FASTER THAN THE WIND — ACROSS THE PLAINS — OVER CHASMS — UP STEEP SLOPES — THRU A TURBULENT RIVER — BUT TIME KEEPS TICKING RELENTLESSLY — AND THE OWL Hoots HAVE A BIG HEAD-START! WILL THE GHOST RIDER GET TO THE MOUNTAIN HIDEOUT IN TIME TO PREVENT MURDER ... ?



TEN MINUTES LATER, THE OWLHOOTS
BEGIN PUTTING THEIR DIABOLIC PLAN
INTO EFFECT —

GOOD WORK, MEN—
WITH THOSE
BOULDERS BLOCKIN'
THUH DOORS AN'
WINDOWS, THEY'RE
LOCKED IN THAR
LIKE RATS IN A
TRAP!

HEH-HEH-HEH ... THUH COLONEL COULDN'T'VE
DONE BETTER HIMSELF! THUH BLAST IS CHANGIN'
THUH COURSE OF THUH RIVER SO IT'LL FILL UP
THUH HOLLOW THUH CABIN'S INN. IF THEY'RE NOT
PAID ALREADY, THEY'RE SHORE TO DROWN!

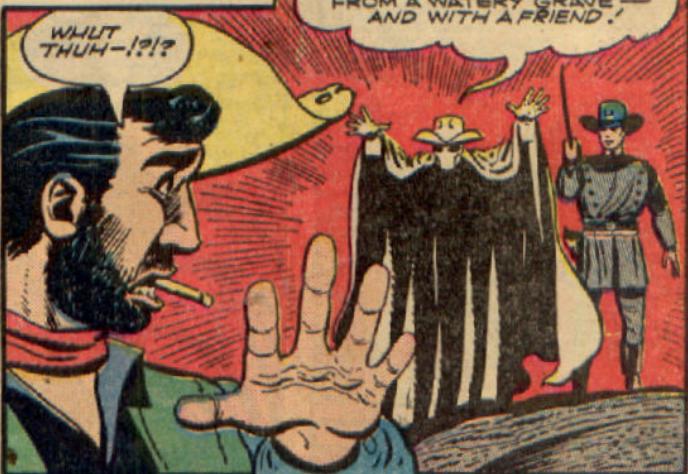


HAW-HEE-HAW-HAW! WE DONE
IT, MEN! WE KILLED THUH GHOST
RIDER. NOBODY KIN STOP US
NOW — WE'RE GONNA BE THUH
KING OF THUH WEST....

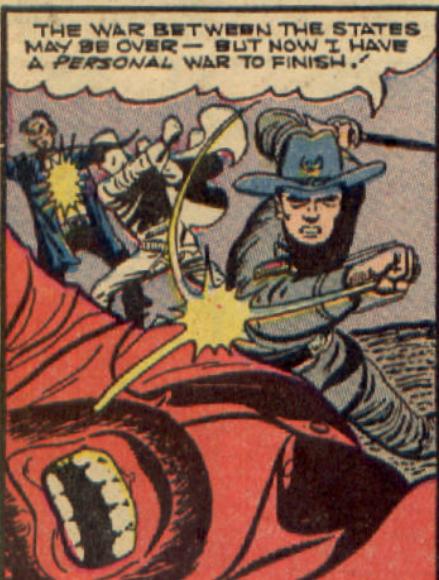


BUT SUDDENLY—

THIS TIME I HAVE COME
FROM A WATERY GRAVE —
AND WITH A FRIEND!



THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES
MAY BE OVER — BUT NOW I HAVE
A PERSONAL WAR TO FINISH!



LATER—

THE GHOST
RIDER CALLED
ME BY NAME
AND TOLD ME
HOW YOU'D
COME OUT
WEST LOOKING
FOR ME, DEAR —
AND THAT RESTORED
MY MEMORY
COMPLETELY...

BUT I SAW
THUH CABIN
UNDER FIVE
FOOT OF WATER!
THET GHOST
RIDER MUST
BE A GHOST—
NO
OTHER
WAY FOR
THEM
TO HAVE
GOTTEN
OUT.

THE VILLAINS WERE
700 THOROUGH IN
IMITATING THE COLONEL'S
ELABORATE PLANS.
THEY GAVE ME TIME TO
EFFECT A QUICK CAPE
REVERSAL, AND I AND
THE COLONEL SLIPPED
OUT OF THE SHACK
UNSEEN IN THE
DARKNESS BEFORE
THEY ROLLED DOWN
THE BOULDERS AND
FLOODED THE
HOLLOW...

FAREWELL,
FRIENDS —
I MUST RIDE
ON IN
EVERLASTING
SEARCH
OF EVIL!



END

The DURANGO KID

A LOT OF TIMES
STEVE BRAND HAS TO PRETEND
TO BE SOMEBODY ELSE IF HE WANTS
TO STAY ALIVE - BUT IT'S
SOMETHING NEW WHEN HE HAS
TO PRETEND TO BE **HIMSELF!**
IT'S A SLICK TRICK IF YOU CAN
DO IT - BUT IT'S ALL PART OF THE

"CODE OF THE DRYGULCHER!"

ART BY FRED GUARDINEER



A TRAIL LEADING INTO LIGHTNING FORK ...

IT'S GOOD WE GOT SPIES IN TOWN.
TUH CHIEF MARSHAL'S SENDIN' A DEPUTY
IN TUH CLEAN US UP-HOMBRE BY TUH
NAME O' STEVE BRAND. HE'S SUPPOSED
TUH BE WEARIN' A BLACK VEST
AN' A WHITE HAT.

WE'LL
BE READY
FER'IM,
IDAHO
JOE!



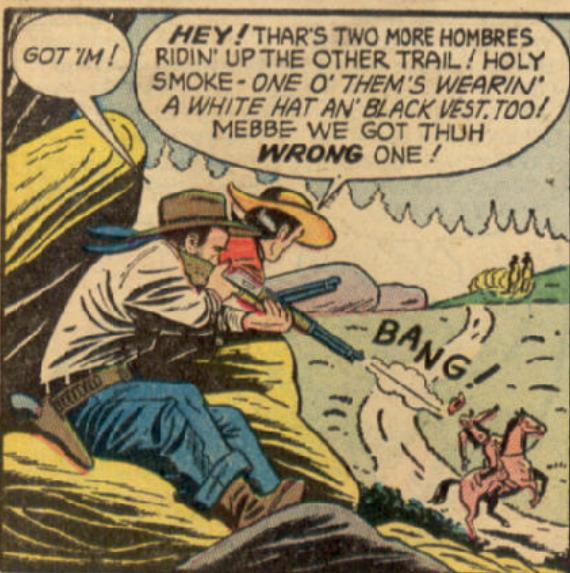
HYAR COMES SOMEBODY
NOW - WHITE HAT AN' BLACK
VEST. THET MUST BE STEVE BRAND.
MAKE YORE SHOT A GOOD
ONE, JEFF.

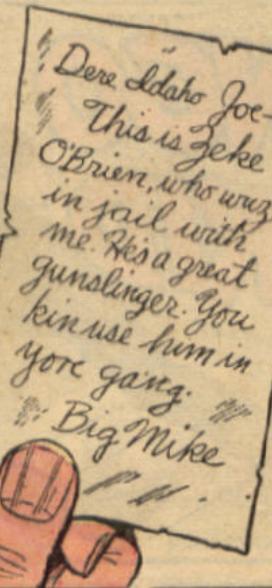
I
NEVER
MISS,
BOSS!



GOT 'IM!
HEY! THAR'S TWO MORE HOMBRES RIDIN' UP THE OTHER TRAIL! HOLY SMOKE - ONE O' THEM'S WEARIN' A WHITE HAT AN' BLACK VEST, TOO! MEBBE WE GOT TUH WRONG ONE!

BANG!





NEXT DAY... IN A BACK ROOM OF THE RED MUG SALOON...

BIG MIKE SHORE SENT US A WINNER WHEN HE SENT HIS CELLMATE, ZEKE O'BRIEN, MEN. EVERYBODY IN TOWN THINKS ZEKE IS STEVE BRAND, DEPUTY MARSHALL! NOW'S OUR CHANCE TUH RUSTLE OFF THET BIG BAR-X HERD...

HYAR'S THUH PLAN-ZEKE WILL GO OUT TUH THUH RANGE GUARDS AN' GIT'EM AWAY FROM THUH HERD. THEY'LL DO WHAT HE SAYS 'CAUSE THEY THINK HES DEPUTY MARSHAL. TELL'EM YUH'RE CHASIN' AN OWLHOOT,ZEKE, AND YUH NEED'EM FER A POSSE...



THEN, WHEN ALL'S CLEAR,
WE JUMP THUH HERD AN'
HEAD IT OVER THUH PASS
INTUH MEXICO. GOT IT.
ZEKE - I MEAN-HAW-HAW! PARDNER!
HAW - "STEVE"!

I GET IT,
BOSS...
LET'S
GO
ZEKE - I MEAN-HAW-HAW! PARDNER!

WAL,
WHUT YUH
GOIN'
TUH DO
NOW?

I'LL GO GET THE RANGE
GUARDS, ALL RIGHT, LIKE
IDAHO JOE SAID. BUT I'LL
BRING THEM UP TO THE PASS-
WE'LL BE WAITING FOR
JOE AND HIS MEN WHEN
THEY BRING THE
CATTLE THROUGH...

I GET IT-
WE'LL
CATCH 'EM
RED-HANDED
THET WAY-
RIGHT?

RIGHT ! YOU STICK
AROUND HERE, MULEY-
AND KEEP YOUR
EYES AND EARS
OPEN. KEEP UNDER
COVER, SO LONG!



BUT, AS STEVE RIDES AWAY... A NEWCOMER SEES HIM...



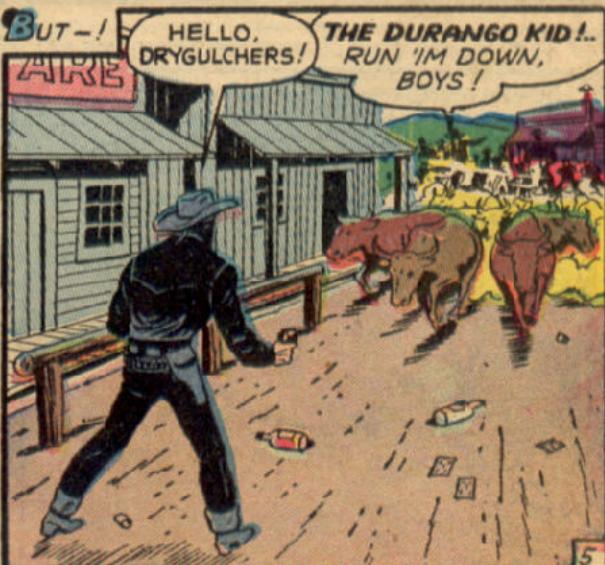
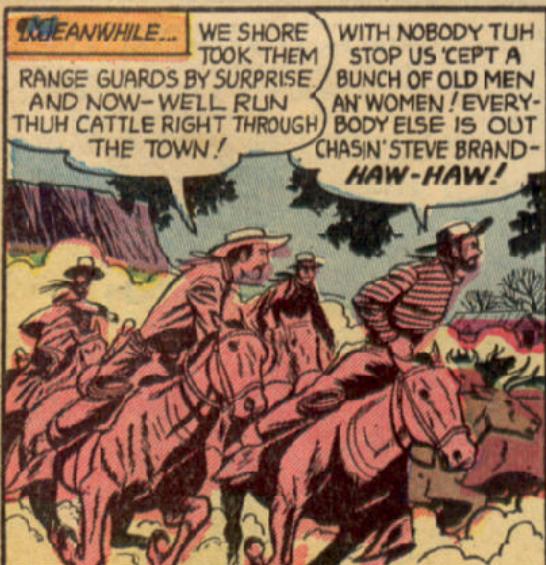
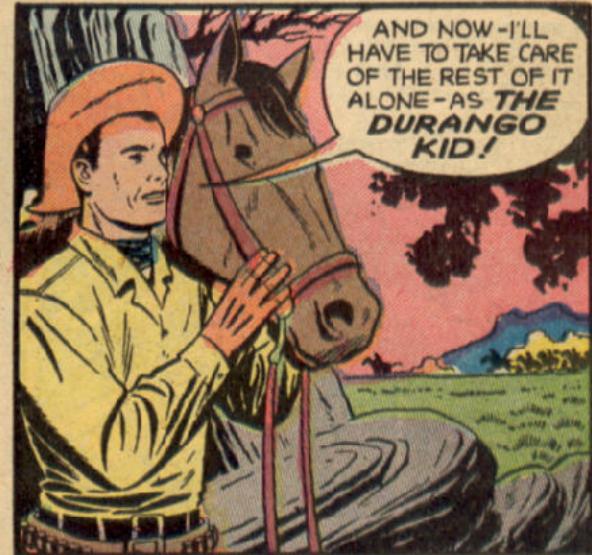
...AND ENTERS THE SALOON...

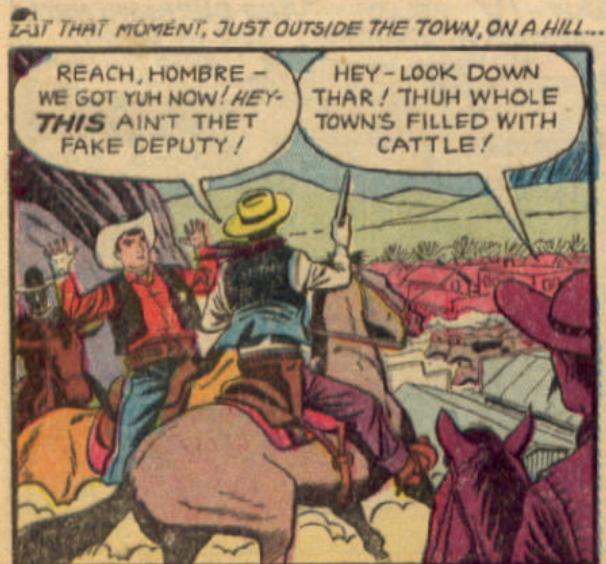
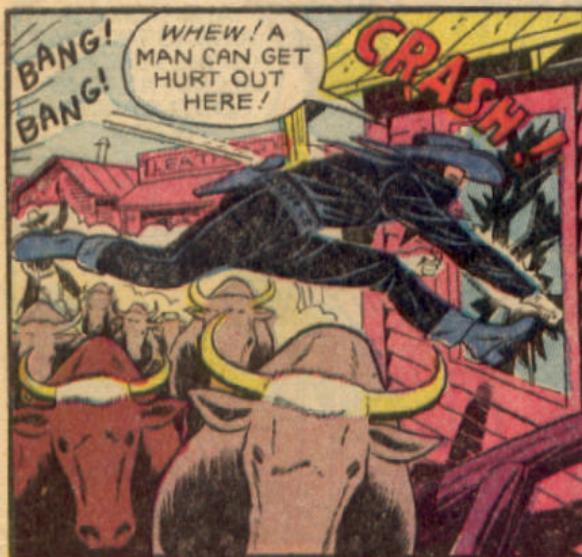
GOT OUT SOONER,
THAN I EXPECTED,
IDAHO JOE. WHUT'S
COOKIN'?





MULEY RIDES FOR THE RANGE - JUST TWO JUMPS AHEAD OF THE POSSE...







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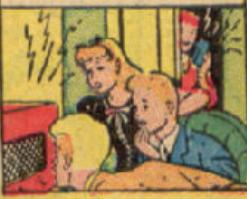
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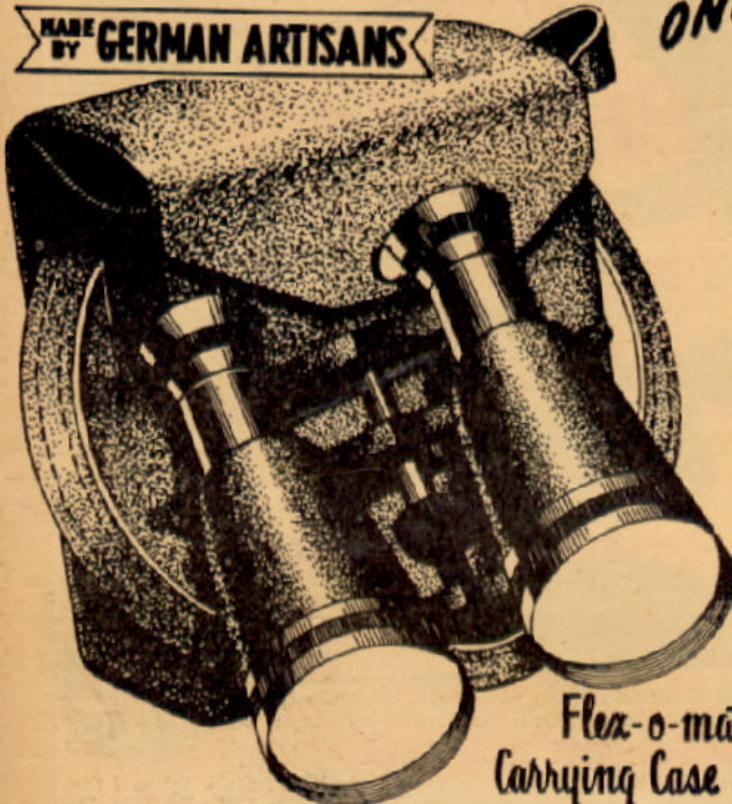
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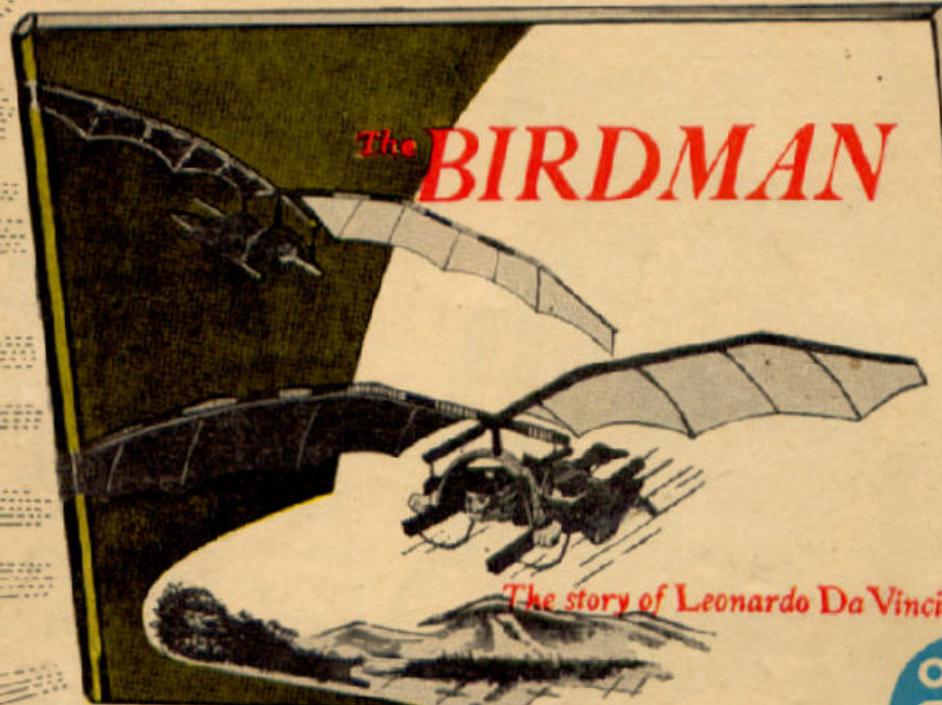
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